

# SANCTIFICATION

**BIBLE TEXT** : Isaiah 6:1-13

LESSON 350 **Senior Course**

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **Isaiah 6:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

<sup>2</sup> Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

<sup>3</sup> And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.

<sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup> Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

<sup>7</sup> And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

<sup>8</sup> Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

<sup>9</sup> And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

<sup>10</sup> Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I Isaiah's Vision of the Triune Godhead**

1. Isaiah saw the vision after he was called to the prophetic office, being already a justified, godly man, Isaiah 6:1;

#### **Isaiah 1:1**

<sup>1</sup> The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2. The vision was of the omnipotent and holy Triune Godhead, Isaiah 6:1-3, 8;

#### **John 12:41**

<sup>41</sup> These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

#### **Acts 28:25**

<sup>25</sup> And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

#### **Revelation 4:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

<sup>2</sup> And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

<sup>3</sup> And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

<sup>4</sup> And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

<sup>5</sup> And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

<sup>6</sup> And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

<sup>7</sup> And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle.

<sup>8</sup> And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

<sup>9</sup> And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

<sup>10</sup> The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

<sup>11</sup> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

#### **Revelation 5:6**

with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

<sup>11</sup> Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

<sup>12</sup> And the LORD have removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

<sup>13</sup> But yet in it *shall be* a tenth, and *it* shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance *is* in them, when they cast *their leaves*: so the holy seed *shall be* the substance thereof.

<sup>6</sup> And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

#### **Ezekiel 1:1-28**

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I *was* among the captives by the river of Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

<sup>2</sup> In the fifth *day* of the month, which *was* the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

<sup>3</sup> The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

<sup>4</sup> And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness *was* about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

<sup>5</sup> Also out of the midst thereof *came* the likeness of four living creatures. And this *was* their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

<sup>6</sup> And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

<sup>7</sup> And their feet *were* straight feet; and the sole of their feet *was* like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

<sup>8</sup> And *they had* the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

<sup>9</sup> Their wings *were* joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

<sup>10</sup> As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

<sup>11</sup> Thus *were* their faces: and their wings *were* stretched upward; two *wings* of every one *were* joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

<sup>12</sup> And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; *and* they turned not when they went.

<sup>13</sup> As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance *was* like burning coals of fire, *and* like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

<sup>14</sup> And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

<sup>15</sup> Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

<sup>16</sup> The appearance of the wheels and their work *was* like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work *was* as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

<sup>17</sup> When they went, they went upon their four sides: *and* they turned not when they went.

<sup>18</sup> As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings *were* full of eyes round about them four.

<sup>19</sup> And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.

<sup>20</sup> Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither *was* their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature *was* in the wheels.

<sup>21</sup> When those went, *these* went; and when those stood, *these* stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature *was* in the wheels.

<sup>22</sup> And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature *was* as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

<sup>23</sup> And under the firmament *were* their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

<sup>24</sup> And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

<sup>25</sup> And there was a voice from the firmament that *was* over their heads, when they stood, *and* had let down their wings.

<sup>26</sup> And above the firmament that *was* over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne *was* the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

<sup>27</sup> And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

<sup>28</sup> As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so *was* the appearance of the brightness round about. This *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw *it*, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

#### **Psalm 72:19**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed *be* his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled *with* his glory; Amen, and Amen.

### **3. The effects were supernatural in character, Isaiah 6:4;**

#### **Exodus 40:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

<sup>35</sup> And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

#### **1 Kings 8:10**

<sup>10</sup> And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

#### **1 Kings 8:11**

<sup>11</sup> So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

## **II Isaiah's View of Himself, Followed by His Sanctification**

### **1. This vision of God's holiness caused Isaiah to see his own inherited depravity and unworthiness, Isaiah 6:5;**

#### **Exodus 33:20**

<sup>20</sup> And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

#### **Luke 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

#### **Matthew 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

#### **Hebrews 12:14**

<sup>14</sup> Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

### **2. Isaiah was sanctified when the coal of fire touched his lips, Isaiah 6:5-7;**

#### **Psalm 51:2**

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

**Psalms 51:7**

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Ezekiel 36:26**

<sup>26</sup> A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

### III Isaiah's Call and Commission

1. Following his sanctification, Isaiah was called to a specific and exacting task, Isaiah 6:8;

**Genesis 17:1-22**

<sup>1</sup> And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

<sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

<sup>3</sup> And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

<sup>4</sup> As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

<sup>5</sup> Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

<sup>6</sup> And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

<sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

<sup>8</sup> And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

<sup>9</sup> And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

<sup>10</sup> This *is* my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

<sup>11</sup> And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

<sup>12</sup> And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which *is* not of thy seed.

<sup>13</sup> He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

<sup>14</sup> And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

<sup>15</sup> And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall* her name *be*.

<sup>16</sup> And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother* of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

<sup>18</sup> And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

<sup>19</sup> And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will

establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.

<sup>20</sup> And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

<sup>21</sup> But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

<sup>22</sup> And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

## 2. The willing consecration made possible a definite commission by God, Isaiah 6:8-13;

### Exodus 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

<sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

<sup>3</sup> And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

<sup>4</sup> And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I.

<sup>5</sup> And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

<sup>6</sup> Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

<sup>8</sup> And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

<sup>9</sup> Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

<sup>10</sup> Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

### 1 Kings 19:19-21

<sup>19</sup> So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

<sup>20</sup> And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

<sup>21</sup> And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

### 2 Kings 3:11-12

<sup>11</sup> But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here *is* Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

<sup>12</sup> And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with

him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

**Acts 13:2**

<sup>2</sup> As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

**NOTES:**

**The Vision and What It Teaches**

The lessons that are given in this vision of Isaiah's are many, among them being the revelation of the supreme holiness of the Triune Godhead. That the Godhead is a Trinity is seen, for Isaiah saw the Lord and heard the celestial beings address him with a threefold ascription of praise. This same ascription of praise is used by the redeemed ones who are before the Throne of God while the Great Tribulation is taking place on earth (Revelation 4:8, 5:8-10). It is no accident that there are three parts to the ascription of praise, one for each member of the Godhead, for there are no accidents with God. And this is not the only reference to Isaiah's vision that reveals the Trinity.

God the Father was present, for He always is represented as the occupant of the Throne in Heaven. Christ is now seated at the right hand of that Throne and the blessed Holy Spirit is in the world reproving "the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). But John the Beloved writes that when Isaiah saw the Lord he saw Jesus! (**John 12:37-41** <sup>37</sup> But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: <sup>38</sup> That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? <sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, <sup>40</sup> He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. <sup>41</sup> These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him) And in the Acts of the Apostles we read that the Holy Spirit spoke at that time! (**Acts 28:25-27** <sup>25</sup> And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, <sup>26</sup> Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: <sup>27</sup> For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.) The threefold ascription of praise was given to a Trinity -- God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In addition to these proofs, we see that when Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord, he did not hear the voice of one individual but of a plurality of Persons united in one, for the Lord said: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for **us.?**" Isaiah was being sent as the messenger of the Triune Godhead, but the message he had to carry was from the Godhead united in one -- a unity that can never be comprehended by mortal mind. (**John 17:21-23** <sup>21</sup>

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. **Hebrews 2:11** <sup>11</sup> For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,)

This chapter teaches us also that the Trinity exists throughout

all time and eternity. "Holy, holy, holy, **is** the LORD of hosts" was the chant of praise indicating that Christ was then in the Godhead. Those who say Christ began His existence when He was born in Bethlehem are in gross error. He was "slain from the foundation of the world" for lost mankind (Revelation 13:8), and "he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

We are taught also that praise and honour of the highest degree and quality are due to our God, and we should give them to Him faithfully. The most exalted attendants at the Throne covered their faces and their feet in reverence, all the while praising God with their full capabilities. If those sinless creatures who stand in the presence of the Almighty do so, how much more should we who have been bought by the precious Blood do the same. We should give Him our praise, our worship, our devotion, our service — our all — in the deepest of humility. These holy beings praise Him constantly -- they who have never known sin, and consequently have never felt the love of God manifested toward them in His redeeming grace. We should praise Him the more, for we have felt that love, that grace, and that mercy extended toward us day after day during our lives.

### **Isaiah's Sanctification**

Isaiah was a godly man at the time the vision was given him. He was already a prophet of God. God's prophets were holy men, and while Isaiah had not received entire sanctification prior to this time, holiness was imputed to him as it is to all who are truly justified. But there came a time in Isaiah's experience, as there comes a time in the experience of every truly justified Christian as he walks in the light, when holiness is imparted to him in the definite and instantaneous work of entire sanctification wrought out in his heart. Imputed holiness, or holiness that is applied to one's account by the grace of God, is his only so long as he is lacking in greater light or opportunity to secure for himself that imparted holiness that is given by virtue of the gift of God's grace — Jesus Christ, and His shed Blood — at entire sanctification.

When Isaiah saw his true condition before God and the holiness of God manifested before him, he cried out in complete despair: "Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, . . . for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Seeing the beautiful perfections of the eternal Godhead cause him to see his own condition in its true light. He was made to realise that he still had an inbred sinful nature that needed purging. He saw his utter insufficiency. Seeing himself as he did made it possible for God to perform in his heart the work of cleansing that is called entire sanctification.

It is good for us to see ourselves as God sees us. When we do, we cry out to God in desperation. Then God can work for us and do for us what He desires. The Word of God is likened to a mirror. We should look into that mirror often, with a prayer in our heart that we shall be able to see our true likeness there. Unsanctified individuals should take courage, "for this is the will of God, even your sanctification" (I Thessalonians 4:3). And we who have received that glorious experience can still benefit from the Word's searching examinations, for we must purify ourselves, even as He is pure, and go on "from faith to faith" and from glory to glory, until we see Him as He is and become like Him through His marvellous grace.

In the Tabernacle on earth, the fire on the brazen altar was miraculously kindled, and coals from the brazen altar were taken into the Holy Place and placed on the golden altar of incense, the smoke from which continuously ascended to God. This was a type of entire sanctification. One of the seraphim took a coal

from off the altar and placed it upon the lips of Isaiah, and the announcement was made that "thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." Therefore, it can be said, with all the positiveness that one can command, that Isaiah was sanctified.

Isaiah's sanctification was not a gradual process. It was an instantaneous experience. He did not grow into holiness, and see his inherited depravity disappear a little at a time. One minute Isaiah saw himself as unclean and the next minute he heard the seraphic pronouncement that he was clean and holy. Sanctification is an act of heart-cleansing that is brought about by faith after a complete dedication, or setting apart, of the life, soul, and spirit of the individual seeking for that experience.

It will be observed that the live coal taken from off the altar was symbolic of the **refining fire** of the Holy Spirit and not the **energising power** of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Some confusion has been caused by people who try to explain away the baptism of the Holy Ghost as a third, distinct Christian experience. Isaiah was sanctified — his iniquity was taken away and his sin nature purged -- when the coal touched his lips. He was not energised with the Holy Spirit at that time in the same sense as one is empowered who receives the Promise of the Father. Isaiah's experience was a purging and cleansing work of the Holy Spirit. It is the application of the cleansing Blood — the coal of refining fire — that makes us ready for the entrance of the Holy Spirit in His empowering fullness. This power is given to us when we receive the third great Christian experience — the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah was sanctified, but it was not until the Day of Pentecost that the baptism of the Holy Ghost was first given to men. The Comforter could not come until Jesus ascended, so none of the Old Testament saints were baptised with the Holy Ghost. But untold numbers of these Old Testament saints were sanctified and testified to that fact by walking on this earth in that perfection of holiness that only the sanctified can know.

### Isaiah's Commission

Everyone is called by God. A few answer the call and are chosen by Him, and as they persevere in the way of godliness they are faithful (**Matthew 20:16** <sup>16</sup> So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen. **Revelation 17:14** <sup>14</sup> These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful). Some who answer the call of God to salvation are called and chosen by Him for special duties in His service (**1 Corinthians 12:28** <sup>28</sup> And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. **Ephesians 4:11-13** <sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:). Isaiah was called as a prophet of God even before his sanctification, but when he was cleansed of his inbred sin the commission was more specific and he was given a particular charge with regard to backslidden Israel.

Isaiah was given an important message for the people, lest they continue as they were, and darkness and bondage come upon them. He was commissioned for this vital work and especially prepared for it. The rest of the Book of his prophecies certainly bears testimony to the fact that he was faithful to his call and to his people. Sublime and wonderful things are revealed to

us in the messages which he, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has brought to us from God. Fearful judgments and dire consequences, as a result of sin and rebellion against God, are set forth in Isaiah's writings. He was called, an chosen, and faithful even to his death.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Enumerate the facts about God that are taught us in Isaiah's vision.
2. How do we know from our lesson text and from other parts of Scripture that the Godhead is three distinct Persons?
3. What effect did the Presence of God have on the Temple itself?
4. What effect did the vision have upon Isaiah?
5. What did the seraphim do and say in reply to Isaiah's statement concerning himself?
6. How do we know that Isaiah was sanctified at this time?
7. How do we know that Isaiah was not baptised with the Holy Ghost at this time?